



September 23, 2020

Administrator Andrew Wheeler
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

This year, Iowa farmers have faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, drought conditions, and a devastating derecho. As the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, I have the privilege of meeting with farmers in all 99 counties of our state every year. During our conversations, farmers emphasize the need for maximum flexibility and tools in how they navigate their operations through this tough time.

As we head into the 2021 growing season, farmers are making business plans that require science-based, functional, transparent, and timely regulatory action from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Delayed decision-making on dicamba, or any tool that farmers rely on, has a direct impact on farm planning by increasing uncertainty during an already tumultuous time.

Crop protection tools are essential to effective weed management and enable improved soil conservation practices like reduced tillage. Limiting the range of products available to protect crops could wind back the clock on decades of conservation progress we have made on soil health and water quality.

Iowa is a national leader in row crop production, harvesting over 2.61 billion bushels of corn and 562 million bushels of soybeans every year. This production translates into food and energy security at home and in 185 countries around the world. We appreciate EPA efforts to offer clear, timely regulatory actions to help farmers make the business decisions necessary to keep this food and fuel supply abundant – while also slowing pesticide resistance and working towards conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important policy matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Naig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Naig" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Naig
Secretary of Agriculture